Girls Stage Camper's Dream ... And Raise $4,500 as Well

Yesterday's "festival of camping" in the Bay Street Armory was a dream come true for amateur camping enthusiasts.

It was like a trip in the woods, but with all the comforts of a backyard barbeque —with no chance of rain.

The "festival" was put on by some 200 Girl Guides, Brownies and Rangers from the Greater Victoria Area as a climax of a drive to raise $10,000 for the development of a new 160-acre campsite near Sooke.

Besides applying the latest in Australian artificial respiration to a paper mache "Guide" draped gracefully over a surf board, pitching and unpitching the Sea Rangers tent-ship, "Victory," and harmonizing that grand old tune, "I found a peanut," the girls found time to run putting and bowling games, sell Easter eggs, and cook their own meals over a camp stove.

Climax of the successful event, which officials estimate netted $4,500, was a tombola. The prize of a family-size tent, two sleeping bags, two camp cots, a cook stove and a lantern was won by H. C. Holmes, 336 Newport Avenue.

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'What Rights Have We?'

Ban on Reef Net Ruined Indians Chief Contends

One of the greatest single factors causing the present plight of the Indians was the outlawing, in 1918, of the reef net, Edwin Underwood, chief of the Tsaout, East Saanich band, declared last week.

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CHIEF UNDERWOOD
. . . 'we lost out'

The statement came after Chief Underwood had received a letter from Frank Howard, CCF federal member for Skeena, asking his opinion of a proposed bill which would grant the franchise to Indians, and at the same time safeguard their hereritary rights.

"What rights?" asked the chief. "We lost our rights when they declared our reef nets were traps, and forbade their use."

Reef nets were cone-shaped, woven from willow bark, and at the top end formed a purse from which the fish, once they had entered, could not escape. The nets were anchored to the bottom.

Prior to the ban on the nets, he said, Indians made their own canoes, and their own nets, and were able, with them, to lay in sufficient food for their requirements. When the ban came, they were unable to find the capital necessary to provide themselves with the equipment to compete successfully against the white man.

Outlawing of the nets was a direct contradiction of the agreement between the early settlers and the Indians, the chief claimed, and has led them to a nomadic existence as berry pickers.

On the San Juan islands, Chief Underwood said, the nets are lawful, and a condition has arisen where white men lease the grounds from the Indians and use the nets themselves.

Any move to guarantee the rights of Indians should begin with a "restoration of rights," said Chief Underwood, who, ironically, worked for many years at Sooke as foreman of the fish traps operated by whites.

During the next 25 years, in which period he feels Indians will find their place with regular employment, is the time when use of the nets would be of extreme value, the chief stated.

Who's Got the Matches?

Who's got the matches, asks Guide Susan Lort, 15, 592 Island Road, as she prepares to exhibit her culinary skill at the "festival of camping" held yesterday in the Bay Street Armory.—(Colonist photo)

Gallows

Pleas Roll In

Petitions sent to Greater Victoria churches in an attempt to save a 19-year-old from the gallows are being returned filled with signatures, the convicted man's brother said here last night.

"They are asking for more blank petition forms," said Leslie Chapman, 29, 2674 Millstream Road. He is devoting all his spare time to the task of saving his brother Robert, sentenced to hang April 28 for the shotgun slaying of another brother, John, on the family farm near Rosedale last Oct. 16.

NEXT SATURDAY

He said all petitions will be collected by next Saturday and he is hopeful that some 3,000 signatures will have been collected. They will be forwarded to Justice Minister Fulton in Ottawa with the request that Robert's sentence be commuted to life imprisonment.

Two branches of the Canadian Legion, a local veterinarian, a furniture store, a meat store, a food market and a gas station have accepted petitions in Victoria. Some 70 further petitions have been sent out to local churches of all denominations.

The province-wide campaign is expected to collect 30,000 signatures by the end of the week.

New Hall

Songhees Need Support

The Songhees Indians of Esquimalt intend to keep their children "on the reserve and off the streets," but they need help.

This was stated yesterday by Lt.-Col. Gilbert Howland, treasurer, B.C. Indian Arts and Welfare Society, at the Vancouver Island Citizenship Conference here.

"They're planning a $2,000 community hall," he said, "and they need some financial help.

The hall will be a joint effort of the Songhees band and the Esquimalt band.

"They're tearing down the old Todd cannery on the Esquimalt band's property," Col. Howland said. "The lumber they salvage will give them a start on the hall."

The fund now stands at $200 and is in a trust account at the main office of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Anyone willing to donate is asked to phone Col. Howland at EV 3-1753 or write him at 3749 Quadra.

Father Alarmed

Cougar Pays Visit To Alberni Home

PORT ALBERNI—Only a few blocks from downtown Port Alberni, the home of L. Forwood, 501 Eleventh Avenue South, was visited overnight Friday by a cougar, according to the evidence of tracks left in snow.

Mr. Forwood notified RCMP after finding large tracks around his house yesterday morning. Because the snow was melting quickly, it was doubted that the government predatory game hunter could be brought to the scene in time to pick up the trail.

There have been several reports of cougar being seen at the east side of the city during the past few months, but these were from homes farther from the downtown area.

There are five young children in the Forwood family and the father, who brought them here only recently from England, expressed concern over the nearness of the predatory animal.

Bombing, Battle, Stunts To Be Air Show Events

Victoria Flying Club members are preparing for a mock air battle, "bombing" stunts and an airplane display for their annual show May 2 and 3 at Patricia Bay airport.

The show will also serve as their celebration during "National Flying Clubs Weekend" and the 50th year of powered flight, said club manager Dave Filby.

One of the many attractions will be free rides for 100 Greater Victoria High School students.

An estimated 20 planes, owned among the club's 250 members, will be placed on display. They will include two-seater Piper Cubs and twin-engined Rileys, as well as the club-owned Fleet Canucks, Cessna 140s and a Navion.

Bags of flour will be used for "bombing" demonstration.

Advice on Careers Offered Students

Grade 12 students at Victoria High School having trouble deciding what jobs they want after leaving school can get skilled advice Wednesday.

Girls who cannot make up their mind whether to train as nurses, airline stewardesses, or stenographers can find out what they are best suited for.

Boys will be able to question experts in the fields of law, architecture, engineering, diplomacy, biology and commercial art as well as apprenticeships.

Victoria Rotary Club members have 53 businessmen and educationists willing to give their help in the National Employment offices, 1039 Johnson, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Other high school students will be able to receive help at similar programs being planned for April 7 and 21 by the club.

Free Book on Arthritis And Rheumatism

HOW TO AVOID CRIPPLING DEFORMITIES

An amazing book entitled "Arthritis and Rheumatism" will be sent free to anyone who will write for it.

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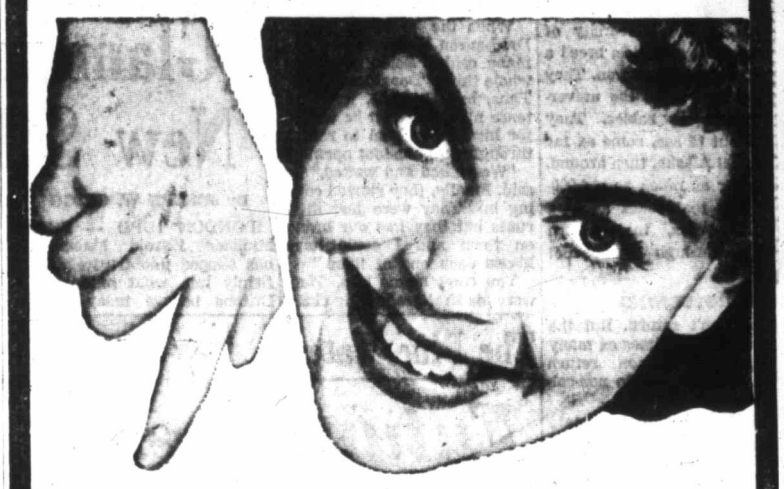

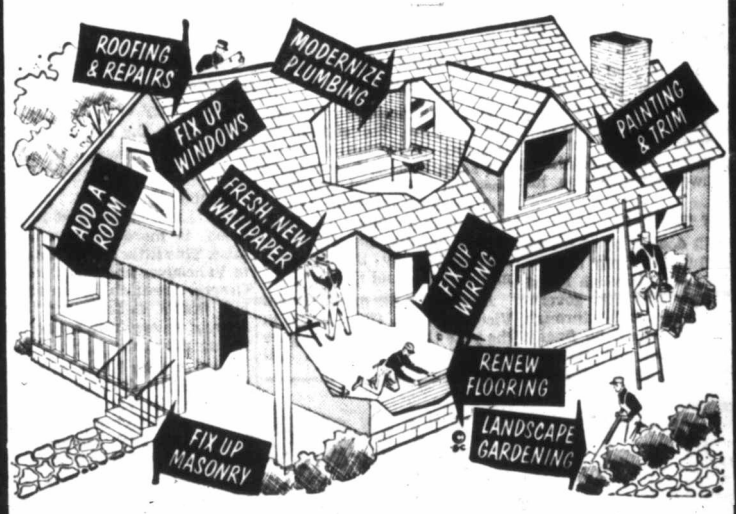

Get Ready to Make Your Home Improvements Now That the Spring Weather Is Here!

For all the equipment you need . . . materials . . . supplies and services you require, check the big new Classified feature "Fix Up Your Home Now," appearing in Friday's paper.

- ★ Nursery Stock, trees, shrubs and plants
- ★ Building Supplies for repairing and remodelling
- ★ Building Trades to perform any job you wish
- ★ Kitchen Fixtures to modernize
- ★ Floor Coverings to brighten your home
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